



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/673,777	09/29/2003	Volkert A. Zeijlemaker	P0010499.00	2479
27581	7590	06/25/2009		
MEDTRONIC, INC. 710 MEDTRONIC PARKWAY NE MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55432-9924			EXAMINER RAMIREZ, JOHN FERNANDO	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3737	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			06/25/2009	PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

### Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

10/673,777

**Applicant(s)**

ZEIJLEMAKER ET AL.

**Examiner**

JOHN F. RAMIREZ

**Art Unit**

3737

**Period for Reply** -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 March 2009.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2-11, 27, 29-35 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 2-9, 27 and 29-33 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 10-11 and 34-35 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SF/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments filed on 03/19/09 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant alleges on pages 7 and 8 of the remarks in relation to claims 10-11 and 34-35, that the cited references do not teach "A MRI unit applying radiation synchronized responsive to receipt of timing information transmitted from the IMD". This observation is respectfully traversed. The Foster et al. reference teach this limitation as described in the rejection in col. 7, lines 5-40; col. 7, lines 49-67; and col. 8 lines 1-10. Based on the above observations, the rejections are maintained and repeated below.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

**Claims 10 and 34-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Foster et al. (US 6,925,328) in view of Paul et al. (5,697,958).**

Foster et al. discloses a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) device comprising: a magnet to generate a magnetic field (col. 1, lines 24-41); an electromagnetic radiation source to apply MRI electromagnetic radiation bursts (col. 1, lines 24-41) to the patient;

an imaging unit to generate images of patient following application of radiation bursts (col. 8, lines 37-55); a receiver to receive information from an implantable medical device (IMD) (abstract); and a control unit to coordinate application of the electromagnetic radiation bursts based on the information (see Figure 5), the information defines a timing of stimulation pulses applied to a patient with the IMD, in which the received information defines a timing of the stimulation applied to the patient by the IMD (see col. 7, lines 5-40; col. 7, lines 49-67; and col. 8 lines 1-10). Foster et al. disclose that the IMD can include an implantable pacemaker connected to the heart for furnishing electrical impulses to the heart (see abstract, see claim 22). The implantable cardioverter/defibrillator pacemaker inherently includes application to trigger an arrhythmia (col. 12, lines 24-43; col. 11, lines 22-30). The MRI sends out signals that are detected by the IMD and the signals are evaluated to determine whether or not to disable portions of the IMD. MRI inherently includes application of gradient magnetic fields. An operator who sets in the image sequence data into the MRI system controller or the microprocessor of the IMD can comprise the programmer which disables portions of the IMD.

Foster et al. disclose timing of the IMD with the MRI system (col. 10- lines 26-67). by the IMD (col. 7, lines 5- 67). Foster et al. does not explicitly teach an implantable medical device (IMD) having a telemetry unit that communicates timing information as to operational conditions of the IMD. In the same field of endeavor, Paul et al. discloses an implantable medical device with a telemetry antenna that receives information from a microprocessor and a timing circuitry to provide timing signals necessary to the

operation of the device and transmit such information over outside the patient concerning the operational conditions of the device (see abstract, figs. 1 and 2, col. 5, lines 9-35). Based on the above observations, for a person of ordinary skill in the art, modifying the method disclosed by Foster et al., with the above discussed enhancements would have been considered obvious because such modifications would provide better noise identification for the proper response of an IMD to avoid malfunction.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

**Claims 11 and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Foster et al. (US 6,925,328) in view of Greatbatch (US 2003/0109901).**

Foster et al. teaches all the limitations of the claimed subject matter as applied in claim 10, except for mentioning specifically a pacemaker which collects information of a cardiac cycle, and the received information includes an indication of sensed cardiac activity and physiologic conditions measured by the IMD, an indication of one or more stimulations applied by the IMD.

However, a pacemaker which collects information of a cardiac cycle, and the received information includes an indication of sensed conditions measured by the IMD, an indication of one or more stimulations applied by the IMD is considered conventional in the art by the teachings of Greatbatch (see Abstract and Figure 1).

Based on the above observations, for a person of ordinary skill in the art, modifying the method disclosed by Foster et al., with the above discussed enhancements would have been considered obvious because such modifications would have provided a stand-alone cardiac stimulating and monitoring system during MRI scanning without operational disruption and without physiological injury to the patient's heart.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 2-9, 27 and 29-33 are allowed.

***Conclusion***

**THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JOHN F. RAMIREZ whose telephone number is (571)272-8685. The examiner can normally be reached on (Mon-Fri) 7:00 - 3:30 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian L. Casler can be reached on (571) 272-4956. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/BRIAN CASLER/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art  
Unit 3737

/J. F. R./  
Examiner, Art Unit 3737